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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/773,034	TOYOSAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven Wong	3711	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed May 9 2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-6.
3.  The drawings filed on 05 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 7 has been canceled.

2. Newly submitted claim 7 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: claim 7 is directed to a separate embodiment than the originally presented claims. Claim 7 is directed to the embodiment of Figures 6A and 6B and the originally presented claims were directed to the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 7 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claim 7 drawn to a species non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claim 7 has been cancelled.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: upon reconsideration and in light of applicant's remarks and amendments, the combinations of Lee in view of Sibbald

and Lee in view of Sibbald and Chase are no longer seen as teaching the claimed invention. The amendment combines the features of originally presented claims 1 and 2. The applicant argues that the combinations do not teach a plurality of notches in the periphery of the flange in order to allow air to pass therethrough. The reference to Sibbald teaches notches in the periphery of the flange of a golf tee, however, this reference is no longer seen as being combinable with the teachings of Lee. Sibbald particularly teaches providing notches for eliminating dirt that accumulates in the boss (12) by the rotation of the ball holder (14) in the boss. Sibbald states that it is the rotation of the sharp edges of the grooves that removes dirt that accumulates in the boss (page 1, lines 67-73). The reference to Lee does not teach a rotational movement between the stick pin (2) and the ball holding member (1) that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the grooves of ball holding member. Further, as argued by applicant, the reference to Lee includes a spring (7) for applying a buffering force between the pin head (9) and the suspending jaw (6). In the present invention, a buffering effect is created by air provided in the hollow part (H) that can escape through the notches (4b1) provided in the flange of the connecting member. To provide the pin head of Lee with notches to create a buffering effect is not suggested as Lee already provides the spring therein to create the buffering effect between the pin head and the suspending jaw.

Also, the amendment includes the recitation of the plurality of ribs extending from the round loop base that would require the combination of Lee in view of Sibbald and Chase.

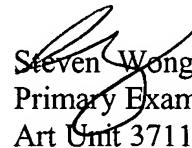
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-4416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday 7am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 571-272-4415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Steven Wong  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3711

SBW  
July 18, 2005